

Council Connection

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

empowerment • opportunity • inclusion

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Preserving the right to self-determination...

...with supported decision
making. What do you think?

Check out [this blog](#) from
the Administration for
Community Living.

Sibling survey!

Help identify needed
supports for siblings of
individuals with disabilities. If
you are 18 or older please
take a few minutes to
complete
[this survey](#).

February 19th DD Day in Annapolis! *Building Champions*



Join us and other advocates in Annapolis for DD Day at the Legislation 2015! Registration is free for people with developmental disabilities - but registration is **REQUIRED** for ALL attendees! Don't miss this opportunity to learn about - and advocate for - legislation and funding issues that will have a direct and significant impact on people with developmental disabilities! [Register here.](#)



Legislators and leadership from the Department of Disabilities, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the MD State Department of Education, and the Division of Rehabilitation Services will be in attendance.

Contact information to call or write elected officials can be found here: [legislative advocacy resources](#)

"DD Day has been a valuable experience for me. It makes our voice stronger in advocacy as we work to strengthen disability rights and continue to strive toward our goal of full inclusion in every





Maryland Sibling Network

A place for siblings in Maryland to connect with others that have a sibling with a disability.

[Find us on Facebook!](#)



Valentine's Day: inspired readings

[Dating with a disability](#)
[She's not my nurse...](#)

Students apply for NASA summer internships now!

NASA has a 2% hiring goal for employment of students with developmental disabilities interested in science, technology, engineering, and math careers through internship programs. Deadline for [applications](#) is Sunday, March 1, 2015.

aspect of life."

Amanda Lay, Council member



"The energy of DD Day is infectious, the tone inclusive and the frame of mind optimistic. DD Day is an annual reminder that if we care, we must not wait for someone



else to create the future we seek. Being shy on this day is to miss out on the chance to affect the change we want and create the future we need. With friends by our side we enter the day prepared to share the message

that we must be included in all facets of community life."

Eric Cole, Council Chairperson

"DD Day gives the disability community a chance to sit down with legislators and aides to tell them how things really are."

Aileen O'Hare, Council Member



People on the Go (POG)

Policy Specialist & Advocate Mat Rice

Determined "that all people should live, learn, work, and play in the communities and locations of their choice," POG's Public Policy Coordinator Ken Capone is a strong presence in Maryland, organizing and mentoring people with disabilities to speak up about their needs and effect change. Expect to see and hear from Ken on DD Day as well as from Mat Rice, Policy Specialist with POG. Mat credits Ken's mentorship as being key to finding the confidence, inspiration, and courage to speak up and out, not only about his needs, but those of others.



Ken Capone

After graduating from high school, Mat attended the Community College of Baltimore County. Currently a Policy Specialist for People on the Go, Mat's career began with Shared Support Maryland, Inc. Mat is a certified support broker. As a user of the Community Pathways waiver he

is able to hire staff and vendors who best meet his needs. With the support of the DD Council, Mat worked as an intern in Annapolis. He also serves on the Maryland State Rehabilitation Council, the Maryland Association of Community Services board as well as participating on various state-wide committees. Mat plans to continue his career in self-advocacy, furthering

Maryland's Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs

The Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs (OGPSHCN) wants your input on priorities in the next 5 years. Please complete [this survey](#).

In college and on the autism spectrum?

The Autistic Self Advocacy Network is now [accepting applications](#) for the 2015 Autism Campus Inclusion (ACI) Leadership Academy!

Disability Policy Seminar April 13th -15th

Join advocates, families, professionals, and policy staff in Washington D.C. to advance the grassroots movement for people living with developmental and intellectual disabilities. [Register now.](#)



Kids with disabilities & child care services...

the cause of civil rights for people with disabilities.

"When I became involved with POG I was only concerned with furthering my own goals and objectives in life. I had to advocate in school to be where I wanted to be academically. I had to advocate after school to have my own apartment and keep it.

These are still important, but now it's a part of my nature to look at how I can help others further the cause of civil rights. Make no mistake, when we talk about self-advocacy and the movement in general, we're talking about civil rights."



Mat speaks at DD Day '14

For more information about POG:

[People on the Go](#)

Priority Legislation & the Governor's Budget

The DD Council tracks legislation to educate policy makers about the impact on people with developmental disabilities and their families, and to advocate for needed change. To keep you informed we provide weekly reports on priority legislation and what the Council is monitoring. Check ["What's New" on our homepage](#) for weekly updates important to you. The reports include links to each bill for more detail and dates when committees hear testimony from the public.

If you missed our earlier announcements about the budget click on the following links for information:

[FY16 DDA budget & budget hearing dates](#)

[FY16 MD State Department of Ed budget & hearing dates](#)

Council Funds Production of Videos

Do you know of a licensed child care provider who makes accommodations for kids with disabilities? We'd love to hear about it! [Contact us!](#)

Contact Us

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Eddyline Media setting up for filming



Film star, Brendan

The Council has provided a grant to Eddyline Media for production of 2- 3 videos featuring stories of children with disabilities learning and playing together with non-disabled peers in Maryland licensed child care settings. When the videos are finished, they will be made available for training purposes and to promote community integration and raise awareness of the

benefits of inclusion.



Film star, Shawn

Stay tuned!

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